

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 18, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1 to 35 and 37 to 61 are pending, with claims 1, 13, 29, 39, 46, 52 and 55 being in independent form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested on the basis of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The limitations of dependent claim 36 have been added to independent claim 29, and claim 36 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action dated October 18, 2004 (§ 9), the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 39, 40, 41 and 42 were allowable. Claim 39 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of base claim 29 and intervening claims 35, 36, 37 and 38. Amended claim 39 is therefore allowable. Claims 40, 41 and 42 depending from claim 39 are also believed to be allowable.

New Claims

New dependent claims 56 to 61 have been added. These claims add the limitations of allowed dependent claim 39 into their respective independent claims. For this reason new dependent claims 56 to 61 are allowable.

Rejection of the oath/declaration

In the Office Action dated October 18, 2004 (§ 1), the Examiner stated that oath or declaration is defective because The Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application is unsigned. Applicants respectfully submit that an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney signed by the inventors was submitted to the U.S. Patent Office on May 22, 2001 in a Response To Notice To File Missing Parts. The entry dated 05-24-2001 in the "image file wrapper" of the USPTO's Public PAIR for this application is the signed declaration. Therefore, the USPTO has a copy of the signed declaration on file. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Objection to the drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they include certain reference characters not mentioned in the specification's description of Fig. 1A. (Office Action, ¶ 2). Applicants have appropriately amended the specification to overcome the examiner's objections to the drawings.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for various reasons. (Office Action, ¶ 3). Applicants have appropriately amended the specification and Fig. 2 to overcome these objections. Applicants have submitted a set of replacement drawings attached hereto. Entry of the new set of formal drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the Examiner's request for "clarification or examples [of] usage of ID No. (nnnnnnn) and PW (AAAAAA) as disclosed in Fig. 3 for tables 1 through 5," it is respectfully noted that ID Numbers and Passwords are in common use in modern telecommunication. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand these illustrative symbols and the concept. Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the referenced elements in the tables stand for a password and ID name for each chip identified by their corresponding numbers. It is not necessary to replace each single reference element listed in table 1 through 5 of the specification. However, for illustration and clarification purposes and so that the examiner may better understand the concepts disclosed in the specification, an example of an ID Number could be a series of numbers and/or letters and/or symbols, such as 1021MC1, and an example of a PW (password) could be a series of numbers and/or letters and/or or symbols, such as 123456.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Rejection to claim 8 under 35 U.S.C §112

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as purportedly lacking sufficient antecedent basis for some unspecified limitation in the claim. The Examiner vaguely objected to the use of the phrase "wherein in step (c) paging is performed by the master". Claim 8 depends upon claim 7 which recites a "master". In turn, claim 7 depends upon claim 1 which has a "step (c) paging". Further clarification or withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Independent claims 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,763, 231 ("Takatori").

In accordance with the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55, identification information of the nodes in a network are stored, the nodes are paged and updated information from detected nodes is then stored and transmitted to the nodes in the network to identify which nodes are still in the network. Each node can respond to a paging signal and can also send a paging signal to identify nodes in the network. An access point based network is provided in which nodes beyond a transmission range of other nodes but within transmission range of an intermediate nodes become known to the other nodes and become accessible to the other nodes by relaying through said intermediate nodes.

Takatori relates to a wireless communication device, a master communication device 1, a master/slave communication device, and a wireless communication system which allow a slave communication device 2 to communicate with an originating telephone apparatus through a host station 3 based on a call originated from that originating telephone apparatus. Takatori discloses using a wireless telephone line to provide communications between one or more slave communication devices 2 and a master communication device 1 through a host station 3. The host station 3 has a central control section 30 and a radio paging control station section 32 for performing various controls for a radio paging system and is connected to a public network. A plurality of cellular base stations 33, 34, 35 are connected to the cellular control station section 31. The host station 3 also has a radio station section 32 (see FIGs. 2 and 3, col. 11, lines 62-67 and col. 12, lines 1-5, relied upon in the Office Action, page 4). However, Takatori does not disclose or suggest using of a self-configuring short-range access point network with a plurality of nodes to page and to identify all nodes in the network and to store their identities, and to make other nodes in the network accessible through one access point node, as recited in amended independent claims 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55. The master-slave-host 3-way communication method disclosed by Takatori is not related in any way to the aspect of providing access to wireless services through networked access nodes. Further, Takatori does not disclose or suggest forming a network by first providing identification information of other nodes to be included in the network to a selected node to be stored into a first database, and upon receiving replies from other nodes within the coverage of the selected node, storing corresponding information into a second database, and

distributing the stored information to all detected nodes, as recited in amended independent claims 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55. Nor does Takatori teach using each individual node to maintain corresponding information, and using this corresponding information to find other nodes to be connected and to connect them to the network. Further, Takatori does not disclose or suggest distributing updated information to other connected nodes with the coverage of the existing node. Further in detail, Takatori does not disclose or suggest that each node can respond to paging from other nodes in the network to join the paging nodes, or can perform the paging to other nodes to enable them to join the network, all as recited in amended independent claims 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55.

In Takatori, the communication is controlled primarily by a host station 3. The host station 3 has a central control section 30 which includes a cellular control station section 31 for performing various controls for a mobile communication system such as switching mobile communication line and a radio paging control station section 32 for the radio paging system to perform switching control of both lines of fixed (wired) communication over the public network and mobile communication (wireless). (col. 12, lines 8-13, as relied upon in the Office Action). In summary, Takatori uses a central station 30 of a host station 3 to control the cellular control station section 31 for the mobile communication system and the radio paging control station section 32 for the radio paging system to perform switching controls of both lines of fixed communication (wired) over the public network and mobile communication (wireless). (Col. 12, lines 9-14). Thus, Takatori does not disclose or suggest using plurality of nodes that have self-configuring capability to form a network in a short-range access point based network and provide access services to client terminals.

For these reasons, amended independent claims 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55 are patentable over Takatori. Dependent claims 14, 20-28, 30-32, 34-37, 43-44, 47-51 are patentable over Takatori for the same reasons.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-12, 15-19, 33, 38, 45, and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,717, 516 ("Bridgelall").

Bridgelall teaches a method using hybrid bluetooth/FRID based real time location tracking device that can be located using dual function fixed devices which are distributed throughout a facility. However, Bridgelall does not disclose or suggest a method providing access to wireless services through networked access nodes, nor does Bridgelall disclose or suggest a self-configuring short-range access point network including a plurality of nodes providing access services to client terminals. Therefore, Bridgelall fails supply what is missing from Takatori relative to applicants' amended independent claims 1, 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55.

For these reasons, amended independent claims 1, 13, 29, 46, 52 and 55 are patentable over Takatori in view of Bridgelall. The claims dependent upon these independent claims are patentable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of FIG. 2 replaces the previously filed FIG. 2.

In this Replacement Sheet of FIG. 2, in block 100-2, the corner sections "S" and "M" have been relabeled as 104-2 and 102-2, respectively.